

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /020 W
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P R 140800Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 243

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FOR BEWT/TDAD/BOWIE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, BBAK, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH CONSULTANT OLLI BACKMAN

REF: (A) USDOC 11735, (B) HELSINKI 586, (C) HELSINKI 555,
(D) HELSINKI 506

1. SUMMARY.COMMOFF HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH BACKMAN SINCE MARCH 15, 1976 . (REFC). COMMOFF SUGGESTED IN SUMMER 1975. THAT BACKMAN, THEN UNKNOWN TO COMMOFF, DURING BUSINESS/PLEASURE TRIP TO US, CONTACT USDOC DISTRICT OFFICES IN NY OR BALTIMORE, OR USDOC/NE IN WASHINGTON. THIS PRESUMABLE IS "CHECK WITH USG" RECOMMENDATION BACKMAN CITES. EMBASSY REPEATS ITS VIEW THAT BACKMAN'S CHRONIC MISREPRESENTATIONS SHOULD PRECLUDE ANY DEALING WITH HIM UNLESS AND UNTIL HE CAN PROVE SOME OF HIS ASSERTIONS.

2. SINCE COMMOFF REQUESTED IN MARCH THAT BACKMAN PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY SUPPORT FOR HIS CLAIMS ABOUT REPRESENTING SOVIETS, BACKMAN HAS AVOIDED COMMERCIAL SECTION. EMBASSY HAS HEARD SPORADICALLY ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES BUT NOTHING FAVORABLE. COMMOFF'S FIRST CONTACT WITH BACKMAN OCCURRED IN SUMMER 1975 WHEN HE VISITED COMMERCIAL SECTION ASKING INFORMATION ABOUT US. HE STATED HE WISHED GET INVOLVED IN US/FINLAND TRADE, AND TO THAT END, INTENDED VISIT US. HE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS PRODUCT INTERESTS,SO COMMOFF
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SUGGESTED HE CONTACT USDOC DISTRICT OFFICES IN NY AND

BALTIMORE (FOR D.C.), AND SINE HE INDICATED HE WOULD VISIT D.C. AS TOURIST, COMMOFF TOLD HIM USDOC/WASHINGTON HAD OFFICE CONCERNED WITH NORTHERN EUROPE, AND PROBABLY SUGGESTED NAME OF ALBERT CAYA. AT THE TIME BACKMAN WAS KNOWN TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTION ONLY AS SMALL TIME ENTREPRENEUR, AND TO COMMOFF NOT AT ALL.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKMAN CAN BE EASILY RESOLVED. HE HAS HAD DEALINGS WITH HILTON (MR. WILLNER) AND HOLIDAY INN, AS WELL AS WITH MCDONNELL/DOUGLAS. AS EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN REF D, FOLLOW-UP CHECK WITH THOSE COMPANIES SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER BACKMAN HAS THE INFLUENCE HE CLAIMS. MDC'S M.L. FREEMAN (REF B) WAS PROMISED MEETING WITH SOVIETS AND WHEN THAT DID NOT MATERIALIZE, WAS PROMISED A LETTER FROM USSR AVIATION MINISTRY. IF MDC IS STILL IN CONTACT WITH BACKMAN (REFA), THEN PRESUMABLY THEY HAVE SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF HIS BONA-FIDES. IF NONE OF THE THREE CORPORATIONS HAS ANY SOLID EVIDENCE OF BACKMAN'S STATUS, THEN EMBASSY BELIEVES IT REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE IS UNR

L. HIS REPEATED MISREPRESENTATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE USING COMMOFF'S NAME AS REFERENCE TO MDC (REF D), AND CITING BEWT IN HIS REQUEST FOR COMMOFF SUPPORT OF HIS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE BOEING (REF C), LEAD TO ABOVE CONCLUSION THAT CAN BE SUPERSEDED ONLY BY SOLID FACTS.

4. FYI: UNLESS INS HAS APPROVED CHANGE OF STATUS, BACKMAN IS IN US ON B-1 VISA.
AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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